



Small Group Leader Guide

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Creation points to a Creator.

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth." And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. God called the space "sky." And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

Then God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear." And that is what happened. God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened. The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

Then God said, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth." And that is what happened. God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird, each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see that learning about creation can help them understand more about God who created everything, including science!

THINK ABOUT THIS

As you lead conversations around faith and science, remember that students may come from diverse perspectives shaped by family members, teachers, or other influential voices in their lives. Even if the



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discussion feels straightforward for your group, certain comments might unintentionally challenge views held by someone they love or respect. Approach this discussion with care, ensuring your group remains a safe and welcoming environment. Consider this a safe space for everyone to listen to one another and process aloud rather than a place to convince or defend.

DURING GROUP

JUST FOR FUN

If possible, go outside for small group time today! If this doesn't work for your group, playing nature sounds and video clips in the background during your time together is a great alternative.

DISCUSS THIS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you enjoy learning about science?
2. If you could have been there to watch God create one thing, what would you want to see most, and why?
3. What's the coolest thing you've ever seen in creation?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

While outside, give everyone 2-3 minutes to find one thing in nature that they think is really cool. Ask everyone to share what they found and discuss where they see the creativity of God in it or how it points to a Creator. (If your group can't go outside, bring in a box full of nature items for them to choose from.)

1. Did anyone share something they appreciated about God's creativity today that surprised you? Tell us about it.
2. Before today, what have you thought about how science and faith can go together?
3. How do you think science helps us understand and appreciate God's creation even more?
4. How might asking questions about science help you grow in your faith?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 2)

Give everyone a note card and pen and ask them to anonymously write down any "what if" questions they have about science and faith. Remind them not to write their name on the card. Have them fold their note card and place it in a box. Let your students know that their anonymous questions may be read from stage during Week 3's talk.